THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The number of meetings held since 1985 is as under:

Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held since 1985
Suburban Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Western Railway	17
Suburbant Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Central Railway	10
Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Bombay Division, Western Railway	12
Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Bombay Division, Central Railway	12

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) These Committees are consultative in character and suggestions made by the members are examined carefully and implemented wherever feasible. These committees are functioning satisfactorily and no change is proposed.

Locomotive deal awarded to ABB of Sweden

1404. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that locomotive deal for 190 million dollar has been awarded to Asea Brown Boveri of Switzerland with such stipulation that Indian law would not be effective in case of any dispute and Indian Railways cannot be a party to such dispute; and

(b) if so, the reasons for accepting each stipulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bombay Urban Transport Project

1405. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter for providing substantial funds for execution of the suburban Railway Projects in Bombay for increasing its capacity, which forms part of the Bombay Urban Transport Project (BUTP-II) is under active consideration of Government;

(b) if so, whether the alternative sources of mobilisation of resources, viz. commercial exploitation of Railway land, air space near/over selected Railawy Station, are also being considered for providing funds for Suburban Railway Projects in Bombay; and

(c) if reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the plans for providing requisite amount to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. However, Railways are implementing a project, viz. 'additional pair of lines between Bandra and Andheri which also figures in BUTP-II. Allocation for this project for 1992-93 is Rs. 14 crores.

(b) A proposal to examine the feasibility of generating additional resources by commercial exploitation of air space over railway land for funding railway projects is in conceptual stage.

(c) Does not arise.

Soliciting Private Investment from NRIs

1406. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Raliways are soliciting private investment from NRIs, based in the Gulf countries for development of a transport infrastructure in the country;

(b) whether the Minister has visited some of these countries recently; and

(c) whether any countries have shown interest in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The possibility of securing the support of NRIs in the Gulf region for the bonds being raised by Indian Railway Finance Corporation for the Konkan Railway project has been explored.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Meetings with representative group of NRIs were held and the response from the NRIs was encouraging.

Rail link to Sikkim

1407. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the North-East Frontier Railway General Manager, which appeared in the Economic Times of the 20th June, 1992 to the effect that rail link to Sikkim is feasible; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to expedite action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction of Railway line in difficult train would require huge investments. In view of acute constraint of resources, it is not possible to consider taking up this line at present.

गुजरात में नई रेल लाइनों का बिछाया जाना

1408. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात सरकार ने राज्य में नई लाइनें बिछाये जाने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ; और

(ग) राज्य में बिछाई जा रही नई रेल लाइनों का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जी हां ;

(ख) और (ग) गुजरात सरकार ने निम्नलिखित नई रेलवे लाइनों के निर्माण की मांग की है :—

(i) कपड़वंज मोडासा

(ii) गोधरा-दाहोद-इन्दौर

(iii) वडोदरा-इन्दौर (बरास्ता छोटा उदयपुर)

(iv) भावनगर-तारापुर

रेल बजट में निम्नलिखित नई लाइनें शामिल की गई है :—

(i) कपड़वंज-मोडासा (60.50 कि० मी०)

(ii) गोधरा-इन्दौर बरास्ता दाहोद, सरदारपुर, देवास और भकसी के बीच धार (316 कि० मी०— जिसमें से 81 कि० मी० गुजरात में है)।

Removal of fish plates from Railway Tracks

1409. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 25th June, 1992 under the caption "Rly track fish plates found removed";